

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Cervical A cervical intervertebral prosthesis, comprising with at least one two cover plate (3, 4) plates configured to be connected to ~~one of two~~ adjacent vertebral bodies, (1, 2), and with a securing plate (12) separate from the cover plates which secures [[this] only one of the cover plate (3, 4) plates and is configured to be fastened to [[the]] a ventral surface of the one of the vertebral body (1, 2), characterized in that the securing plate (12) is a separate part unconnected to the cover plate (3, 4) bodies and a prosthesis core which forms an articular joint with one of the cover plates.

2. (Currently Amended) Intervertebral The cervical intervertebral prosthesis according to Claim 1, wherein one of the cover plate (3, 4) plates is provided with a limit stop surface (11) facing in [[the]] a dorsal direction relative to the vertebral bodies.

3. (Currently Amended) Intervertebral The cervical intervertebral prosthesis according to Claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the securing plate, ~~if appropriate with the fastening means provided for it,~~ is biodegradable.

4. (Currently Amended) Intervertebral The cervical intervertebral prosthesis according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the securing plate is a circular disk.

5. (Canceled)

6. (New) The cervical intervertebral prosthesis according to Claim 3, wherein the securing plate is a circular disk.

7. (New) An instrument for positioning a securing plate which is configured to be fastened with fastening screws to a ventral surface of a vertebral body in order to secure to the vertebral body an intervertebral prosthesis that is separate from the securing plate and comprises two cover plates configured to be connected to adjacent vertebral bodies and a prosthesis core which forms an articular joint with one of the cover plates, the instrument comprising a drill

gauge for the fastening screws which is configured to be connected to the prosthesis or a prosthesis model in a predetermined relative position.